

Adolescent off-road licencing

Meeting April 27, 2007

Powelltown Pub

Present

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Local member Tammy Lobato MP

Dan Rotman MA dan@ma.org.au

Desired Outcome

For Junior motorcyclists to be able to ride their bikes under supervision in selected places other than private property.

Initial Aim

Create detailed proposal for State Government

Submit to either :

- Parliamentary Road Safety Committee or
- VMAC or
- Direct to Minister for Roads & Ports Hon Tim Pallas MP
- (or all three)

Discussion points

Overview

There are a number of significant issues around the use of motorcycles by under-aged riders. These include:

- Environmental damage caused by unrestricted riding
- Riding uninsured on public land
- Riding non-ADR complying bikes
- Nuisance caused by unrestricted exhaust noise
- Riding without helmets or other safety gear.

While much of this activity is technically illegal, there are not the Police resources to control them, and there is probably a lack of knowledge by parents about these issues.

Creating an infrastructure which exerted a measure of control would:

- Establish a network of signed trails which would reduce bush-bashing.

- Help create an environmentally friendly attitude as riders grow up under a system
- Help create a positive responsible role model for other Rider behaviour as riders grow up under a system.
- Improve rider safety awareness and standards through the implementation of training.
- Improve riding safety through the compulsory wearing of Personal Protective Equipment
- Improve riding safety through the implementation of speed restrictions
- Long-term improvements to riding safety by increases in rider experience.
- Encourage riders to care for tracks and trails

The primary benefits of this approach will be to:

- Establish a Rider Etiquette
- Stress environmental issues
- Provide a measure of control compared to the current unrestricted situation.

The purpose of this committee is to examine ways that these issues can be addressed, and to provide a structured way that under-aged riders can access nominated riding areas under supervision.

Structural Requirements

Lead and Sweep riders

Must be MA members or ride with MA licence holders?

Insurance would be available through Motorcycling Australia Insurance Limited.

Ambulance service /membership?

Venue requirements

Gazetted roads or structured tracks, firetrails?

Control over venues, including reestablishments and signage of marked trails, inc trail arrowing

Fee to maintain tracks or working bee?

Who nominates tracks for use/maintenance?

Segregation of uses- horses, bushwalkers, 4WDs?

Speed restrictions

Rider requirements

Stress rider etiquette

Complete Training course

Logbook to record hours, accompanying riders, etc

Not a licence- Equivalent to L Plate (need accompanying person to activate legitimacy)

Personal protective equipment as per MoMS [Pictures of kids wearing PPE]

Ambulance membership

Lead & Sweep Riders requirements

Training Course (eg: Trail Boss ex MQld)

First aid course & equipment ?

Ambulance membership

Bike requirements

Motorcycle size restrictions- up to 125cc two stroke, 250cc 4-stroke?

Different plates

Time restrictions (eg daylight hours)

Noise compliance

Same bike requirements as ordinary Vic recreational registration:

- a rear vision mirror fitted to the right hand side
- brakes fitted to both wheels, capable of working independently if one brake fails
- one head lamp
- one rear red lamp
- one rear red brake lamp
- one rear number plate lamp
- a silencing device which restricts the noise level to 94 dBA or less
- an appropriate horn or warning device
- a chain guard that protects the rider from the front chain sprocket

Add- Flame arrestor on exhaust?

Other issues

Name? Junior Recreational (Off Road)Learner's Permit

Minimise bureaucracy

Grass roots campaign -Create information packs for clubs to talk to local members about

Far more bikes sold than registered. Some go to farms, some to competition.

Contact FCAI for Vic, national sales figures versus registrations

Education will bring long-term improvement in behaviour

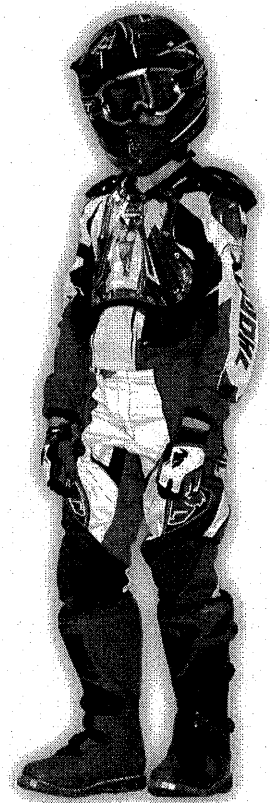
Clubs to perform basic trailworthy inspections

Club based activities

Inspection fee for first registration

TAC fee

Numberplate fee



Contribution to policing

Camping restrictions guidelines

Policing of non-compliance- easier to police non-compliers when there's a system in place for doing the right thing

If my 13 year-old can ride a bike off-road, why can't he drive my 4WD?

Process

Action	Due Date	Respons
Distribute this document to Committee members, MVic, Rod Lay for initial comment	04/05/07	DR
Provide feedback to this document	18/05/07	All
Amend document and arrange further meeting of Committee	24/05/07	DR
Send amended document to Victorian clubs inviting their feedback, advising them of process	30/05/07	
Public meeting (invite clubs, VMAC, etc) to discuss way forward	End June 07	
Use Feedback to refine offering	End July 07	

Additional Processes

Find out about current investigations of Parliamentary committee (no current reference to Committee regarding Motorcycles or Junior Riding issues)

Research boat licence, firearm licence for parallels as to process and outcomes

Rod Lay Blue Light Rally- ask him for involvement (Agreed in principle)

MA to contact MVic and clubs and ask for feedback and involvement

US Based Federation of Off Highway Vehicle Associations has extensive documented guidelines which could be used as a basis for our submission.

Important External Contacts:

Peter Wright MVic motorvic@motorcyclingvic.com.au

Rod Lay Vic Police rod.lay@police.vic.gov.au

Roger Pitt DSE Trail Bike Project roger.pitt@dse.vic.gov.au

Ray Newland FCAI rayn@ocean.com.au

Hon. Tim Pallas, Minister for Roads and Ports

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Victorian Motorcycle Advisory Committee

Members

Neil O'Keefe	Chairman
Cameron Cuthill	Independent
Peter Dunphy	Victorian Automobile Chamber of Commerce
Bruce Corben	Monash University Accident Research Centre
Ray Newland	Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries
Rob Smith	Independent
Moiria Stewart	Women's International Motorcycling Association
Marcus Wigan	Oxford Systematics
Michael Czajka	Motorcycle Riders Association of Australia
Jeff Millar	Victoria Police
Samantha Cockfield	Transport Accident Commission
Detlef Lamp	Victorian Motorcycle Council
Robert Nordlinger	Harley Owners Group
Peter Daly	Royal Automobile Club of Victoria
Hollie Black	Scooter Federation
Stuart Strickland	Honda/HART
Roger Northam	Barwon Community Road Safety Council
Linda Ivett	VicRoads
Ted Vincent	VicRoads
Jill Earnshaw	Secretary

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Victorian Parliamentary Committee on Road safety

Members

- John Eren, MP Chair
- David Koch, MLC Deputy Chair
- Craig Langdon, MP
- Shaun Leane, MLC
- Terry Mulder, MP
- Ian Trezise, MP
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MA RIDERS OFFROAD CODE OF CONDUCT

As a participant in a MA (Motorcycling Australia) ride, you must abide by our rules and guidelines. These rules are there to ensure the safety of all participants and the preservation of the environment.

MA's goal is to maintain and increase access to areas for our rides. This can only be achieved through your co-operation by following our rules and guidelines.

Please read and make sure you understand all of these rules and guidelines before you ride. Following these rules can help ensure your safety, and the safety of everyone on the ride. Your actions can also affect the ongoing access for all riders.

ENVIRONMENTAL CARE

You will have a direct effect on the environment you ride in and it is up to you to ensure you don't adversely affect it. If you, and all other riders are to continue enjoy the privilege of riding in Australia you need to:

- Always have your motorcycle fitted with an appropriate muffler to an approved Australian standard.
- Ride to minimise your impact on the environment. (Your Ride Organiser can help you do this by demonstrating the correct style of riding).
- Never litter the riding environment. Anything you bring into the riding environment must go home with you or into an appropriate rubbish bin. (If you see any rubbish and can carry it, pick it up: Every bit you can do helps to protect the environment).
- Providing that you do not endanger yourself or others avoid hitting native or domestic animals that live in the riding environment.
- Leave the riding environment in the same or better condition than when you arrived.
- Communicate any bushfire or inappropriate land use to your Ride Organiser or the appropriate authorities.
- If you open a gate, close it after you.
- Stick to established trails and don't take shortcuts through the bush, which could cause erosion problems (and a reason to restrict motorcycle access).
- Only use designated crossing points on creeks and waterways and minimise wheel spin at these crossings to reduce water turbidity.

RIDER SAFETY

Your MA Ride Organiser is responsible for coordinating and guiding your ride. The Ride Organiser not only leads the activity but also takes responsibility for providing adequate pre-ride training, hazard identification and general safety of all participants.

You must wear, as a minimum

- Safe footwear,
- Eye protection,
- Gloves,
- Protective clothing and an
- Australian Standards approved helmet.

Your Ride Organiser will inform you if you do not meet the minimum standard of personal protective equipment to participate in the ride.

For your safety, and the safety of everyone on the ride, is imperative that you:

- Are present and pay attention for the entire pre-ride briefing.
- Take notice of any hazards identified during the pre-ride briefing, or during the ride.
- Always follow the instructions of the Ride Organiser and any other staff.
- Take notice of any particular concerns that the organisers have about the ride conditions and make sure that you understand the Ride Organisers requirements to eliminate these concerns.
- Follow the directions of your Ride Organiser and support staff when hazards are identified.
- Don't do anything that will endanger yourself, your fellow riders and or other people.
- If a fellow rider breaks down, check if help is needed and provide what help you can. Wait with the other rider or alert support staff as required.
- Pay particular attention at trail junctions to ensure you don't crash into another vehicle.
- Concentrate on your riding and follow any directives on trail signage.
- If you encounter an unexpected hazard, show it to other riders to ensure the safety of the whole group..
- Use the correct methods for hazard identification shown to you by your Ride Organiser;
- Carry enough food and fluids to sustain your needs during the ride.

It's a condition of you riding with MA that you follow our rules and any directives of your Ride Organiser. If you can't follow our simple rules, perhaps you should reconsider membership with MA.. Our goals are long term and require cooperation from everyone involved.

Always remember, safety first, ride responsibly! Enjoy the outdoors, don't destroy it!

Proposed Code of Operations Manual

Table of Contents

Introduction

- Structure
- Volunteer Engagement
- Ride Organiser
- Purpose of Training and Manuals
- Volunteers
- Insurance

Current Operations

- Motorcycles
- Equipment

Standards of Conduct

- Motorcycle Activities

Health and Safety

- Health and Safety
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Participant Ratios
- Communication Devices
- Refuelling
- Support Vehicle
- First Aid
- Ride Organiser Training
- Visual Safety Vests

Environment

- Activity Environment
- Environmental Impacts on Trails
- Human Waste
- Rubbish
- Refuelling
- Noise
- Washing of Vehicles

Standards

- Group Management
- Guide Competencies
- Participant Considerations
- Environmental Considerations
- Ethical Considerations

Activity Conduct

- Getting Started
- Activity Safety Checklist
- Ride Registers
- Identifying Abnormal Hazards
- Hazard Location Sheet (Field)
- Trail Rating
- Itinerary
- Evidence of Membership and License
- Membership Packages
- Emergency Response
- Natural Hazards
- Accident/ Incident Investigation Reports